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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 24, 2005

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The Honorable John Graham  
Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Dr. Graham:

It has been reported that you have met in recent months with business community representatives to discuss proposals for changes to the regulatory process.<sup>1</sup> We respectfully request that you disclose details about these meetings, including the organizations with whom you have met and the documents exchanged.

The Committee on Government Reform has broad oversight jurisdiction over the regulatory process and will have jurisdiction over any legislative initiative regarding the efficiency of federal regulations. Furthermore, the Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over governmentwide management issues.

It has been reported that following the election last November, industry groups began discussions with your office about major changes to regulatory procedures.<sup>2</sup> According to a January 25, 2005, *Washington Post* article, you met in December with at least one industry group to discuss legislation that would allow industry to delay an agency rule by challenging the science supporting the rule.<sup>3</sup> In addition, President Bush proposed measures in his fiscal year 2006 budget that would significantly impact agency programs and regulations. One such measure is the proposed Sunset Commission.<sup>4</sup> Under this proposal, every federal program, including those protecting children and national security, would be presumed to expire on a set schedule, unless Congress affirmatively acted to reauthorize the program.

<sup>1</sup> *Report Sheds Light on Changing Role of Regulation*, *Washington Post* (Jan. 25, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> *GOP Adds New Tactics to War on Regulations*, *CQ Weekly* (Jan. 31, 2005).

<sup>3</sup> *Report Sheds Light on Changing Role of Regulation*, *supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> Office of Management and Budget, *Fiscal Year 2006 Budget of the U.S. Government*, Analytical Perspectives, 16 (Feb. 2005).

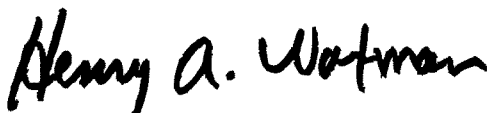
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Chairman Davis has indicated that the Committee on Government Reform will be active on the issue of regulatory affairs during this Congress. Not only could this include direct changes to the regulatory process but likely will include management initiatives that affect the regulatory process. As the Administration is expected to offer views on these issues, it would be helpful to have a better understanding of how outside parties have influenced the Administration in developing its views. Please provide specific and detailed responses to the following request for information. For materials that are available on OMB's website, please provide the name of the document and a link where the document can be accessed.

1. Please list all meetings and discussions (including telephone conversations) between OIRA staff and representatives of any non-federal government entity, including any industry, trade, or public interest organization, held between November 1, 2004, and the date of this letter, regarding any issues or proposals related to the regulatory process. Please include, but do not limit your response to meetings and discussions addressing the following topics: "regulatory reform," "regulatory budgets," "data quality," reducing paperwork, sunseting government programs or regulations, "budget performance integration," "program assessment ratings," and "unfunded mandates." Please include the date and the names of all participants and their organizational affiliations.
2. Please provide a description of the purpose of these meetings. For each meeting, please describe whether the meeting was held in order to obtain recommendations about policy or proposed legislation.
3. Please provide a summary of the content and outcome of each of these meetings or discussions.
4. Please provide all documents (including e-mails) exchanged between OIRA staff and any nonfederal employee since January 1, 2003, related to the regulatory process or any of the topics listed in question one.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please provide the requested responses and materials no later than April 7, 2005.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member



Stephen F. Lynch  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs

cc: The Honorable Tom Davis  
The Honorable Candice Miller